

Atlantic Richfield Company

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May 6, 2011

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Jere Johnson
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-9-1
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: April 2011 Monthly Report, Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada: Administrative Order for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), CERCLA Docket No. 9-2007-0005; Administrative Order on Consent, CERCLA Docket No. 09-2009-0010

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Pursuant to the above referenced orders issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9 (EPA), Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) has prepared this monthly report for RI/FS and removal action activities at the Yerington Mine Site (Site) during April 2011.

April 2011 Activities

Site Security and O&M Activities

- Continued routine Site O&M, security and bird deterrent activities including operation of the propane cannons for the Arimetco ponds (with the exception of the VLT Pond, as directed by EPA). Bird guard towers remained active due to accumulated precipitation in the pumpback well system (PWS) evaporation pond. The "Wind Dancer" continued to be re-located, as needed.
- On April 18, the security camera located near the Slot Pond MCC was found to be missing. Site personnel notified the Lyon County Sheriff's Department of the theft, and purchased cable locks to secure the remaining cameras to deter the possibility of further theft.
- No ponded water is presently in the Pumpback Well System (PWS) evaporation pond cells: North Cell = 0.0 feet; Middle Cell = 0.00 feet; South Cell 0.00 feet. Pending EPA approval, ARC will temporarily discontinue use of bird guard towers A and B. Bird guard tower C will remain in operation due to standing water in the middle and south cells of the lined evaporation pond.
- Arimetco heap leach fluid management system (FMS): Pond levels: Phase 1 Pond = 4.25 feet; FMS Evaporation Pond = 7.25 feet; VLT Pond = 8.00 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 13.50 feet. No solution was transferred from the VLT Sediment Pond (VLTSP), the Slot Sediment Pond (SSP) or the Phase 1 Pond to the FMS Evaporation Pond. About 49,744 gallons of solution was pumped from the leak detectors in April (about 150,117 gallons of solution has been pumped from the leak detectors since January 1, 2011). See attached graphs for FMS flows and volumes. Continued the compilation of FMS O&M data for inclusion in the 2010 annual report.
- Sierra Geosynthetics and Desert Engineering assessed areas of the Phase 3 and 4 heap leach pad (HLP) liners that need to be repaired.
- A propane cannon at the FMS (EPA 4-acre) Pond failed, and could not be repaired.

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April 2011 Activities - Continued

Other Site Activities

- Quatterra personnel worked in their core storage area.
- B.V. Nevada continued demolition and salvage activities including the demolition of the EW plant, and have transported salvage materials off-Site on a weekly basis. Joe Sawyer (NDEP) met with B.V. Nevada on April 14 to discuss the retention of HDPE pipe for future Site use.
- Continued improvements were made to the Sample Support Building including the re-location of Conex units near the building and the installation of a work sink, new manhole cover, tankless water heater, heat pump and air conditioning units in the building. Bids were solicited for the installation of a new door and insulation in the building.

Site Characterization

- Site-wide monthly groundwater elevation measurements were obtained April 25-28 and, for most Peri well locations, on May 2 (the B/W-65 cluster was inaccessible due to irrigation activities). Surface water sampling of the Walker River and West Campbell Ditch was conducted on April 27.
- A pit lake elevation of 4224.951 feet amsl was recorded on April 26 from the pressure transducer, an increase of 0.441 feet since March 31, 2011. The pit lake elevation has risen 3.45 feet since April 26 of 2010.
- Continued meteorological monitoring at the AM-6 location including wind speed/direction, temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, precipitation and solar radiation.
- No residences were added to the Bottled Water Program during April 2011.
- No changes were made to the domestic well program during April 2011.
- Submitted the 2010 Annual Site-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Report on April 15.
- Initiated the re-development of 23 monitor wells (1 alluvial and 22 bedrock wells) that were installed as part of the 2010 Well Installation and Ag Field Characterization investigations.
- Continued the compilation of field and laboratory data for inclusion in the Data Summary Report for the 2010 Well Installation and Ag Field Characterization investigations.
- Continued the evaluation of available hydrologic tracer data obtained pursuant to the 2010 Well Installation and Ag Field Characterization field investigations, along with historic data. Continued the compilation of data for the Background Groundwater Quality Assessment for inclusion in a future Background Investigation Work Plan, as requested by EPA.
- Continued routine database management activities.
- Continued Site wildlife surveys, data management and wildlife observation reports.

AOC Removal Actions

- Received EPA comments on the revised Dust Suppression Plan (DSP) for Inactive Evaporation Ponds (Revision 1) on April 7, and initiated responses to comments and the preparation of the DSP (Revision 2). Developed a preliminary pilot test procedure for evaluating the geochemical effects of polymer application for EPA review and approval.
- Continued the compilation of data for inclusion in the Sub-Area A Sub-Surface Investigation Data Summary Report, performed as part of the Sub-Area A interim cover removal action.

Planned May/June 2011 Activities

Site Security and O&M Activities

- Continue routine Site O&M, security and bird deterrent activities including the re-location of one propane cannon and the installation of a new cannon to replace the one that failed in late April..
- Conduct bird observation refresher training for Site personnel.
- Pending further discussions with EPA, repair the Phase III and IV HLP peripheral ditch liners that have been wind-damaged.

Planned May/June 2011 Activities - Continued

Site Security and O&M Activities - Continued

- Complete limited road grading on the main Site roads.
- Continue building re-location activities including Blue Shop improvements, plans for the office trailer and the installation of a door and insulation in the Sample Prep Building
- Complete the Site radio communication survey and install equipment to improve Site communications during simultaneous operations.
- Relocate the pit lake transducer to accommodate ARC H&S requirements.
- Complete a review of water and sewer service requirements in support of re-locating the field office from Weed Heights to an on-Site trailer at the location of the former Administration Building.
- Complete an agreement with Weed Heights for water and sewer service for the planned office trailer and the Sample Support Building.

Site Characterization

- Continue Site wildlife surveys, maintenance of wildlife observation data and preparation of wildlife observation reports.
- Continue groundwater elevation and pit water level monitoring, surface water sampling, and Site meteorological monitoring.
- Continue the compilation of data for inclusion in the 2Q 2011 monitor well and domestic well monitoring reports.
- Continue additional well development of a select number of deeper monitor wells installed as part of the 2010 Monitor Well and Ag Fields Work Plans.
- Continue to compile data and prepare the data summary report for the 2010 Monitor Well and Ag Fields Work Plans.
- Continue the evaluation of available hydrologic tracer data and the compilation of all available data for the Background Groundwater Quality Assessment for inclusion in a future Background Investigation Work Plan.
- As needed, support aquifer solids testing activities.
- During the week of May 16, discuss the 2011 On-Site Monitor Well Work Plan with EPA.
- Discuss on May 18 the results, and next phase, of geophysical surveys and related sub-surface utility investigations in the Process Areas with EPA. As needed, discuss with EPA the revised Process Areas RI Work Plan.
- Initiate the aerial mapping/photogrammetry survey to improve on-Site and off-Site base maps for RI/FS purposes (schedule dependent on aerial survey consultant availability).

AOC Removal Actions

- Submit a revised version of the Process Areas Radiological Materials Removal Action Completion Report.
- Pending further discussions EPA, implement the pilot test and or the application of dust suppressant on the former Anaconda Evaporation Ponds and select portions of the Process Areas that were subjected to the removal of radiological soils.
- Receive laboratory geotechnical results for the Sub-Area A sub-surface investigation, continue to compile characterization data for inclusion in the Sub-Area A Sub-Surface Investigation Data Summary Report, and initiate vadose zone modeling.
- Complete and submit the 2010 Annual FMS O&M Report.

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If you have any questions or comments about the April 2011 monthly report, please contact me at (714) 228-6774 or via e-mail at jack.oman@bp.com.

Sincerely,



Jack Oman
Project Manager

Attachment

cc: Dave Seter, EPA – via electronic mail
Jacquelyn Hayes, EPA – via electronic mail
Roberta Blank, EPA – via electronic mail
Andrew Helmlinger, EPA – via electronic mail
Tom Dunkelman, EPA – via electronic mail
Joe Sawyer, NDEP – via electronic mail
Tom Olsen, BLM – via electronic mail
Dan Newell, City of Yerington – via electronic mail
Phyllis Hunewill – via electronic mail
Virgil Arellano, Lyon County Commissioner – via electronic mail
Richard Faber, Lyon County Facilities Engineering – via electronic mail
Tom Grady, Nevada State Assembly – via electronic mail
Justin Whitesides, YPT – via electronic mail
Chairman Emm, YPT – via electronic mail
Dietrick McGinnis, McGinnis and Associates – via electronic mail
Tom Bowden, Ridolfi, Inc. – via electronic mail
Chairwoman McFalls, WRPT – via electronic mail
Vicky Moyle, WRPT – via electronic mail
Ron Halsey, Atlantic Richfield Company - via electronic mail
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Victor Early, Tetra Tech – via electronic mail
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Peggy Pauly, YCAG – via electronic mail
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